

batrachia. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 15(3):499-509.

MAHENDRA, B. C. (1939): Extension of the range of the microhylid frog [*Uperodon systoma* (Schneider)]. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 41(1):180-181.

NIEDEN, F. (1926): Das Tierreich, Anura II.:20.

PARKER, H. W. (1934): A monograph of the

frogs of the family Microhylidae. Brit. Mus., London: viii + 208.

THURSTON, E. (1888): Batrachia, Salientia and Apoda of South India. Madras: 1-54, 13 pls.

WALTNER, R. C. (1974): Geographical and altitudinal distribution of amphibians and reptiles in the Himalayas Part I. *Cheetal*, 16(1):17-25.

## 18. THE SPECIFIC IDENTITY OF THE SOLE, *ZEBRIAS ZEBRA* (BLOCH) IN INDIAN WATERS

Five species namely *Zebrias synapturoides* (Jenkins), *Z. guagga* (Kaup), *Z. altipinnis* (Alcock); *Z. cochinchensis* Rao (1967) and *Z. annandalai* Talwar and Chakrapany (1967) of the genus *Zebrias* Jordan & Snyder (Family Soleidae) are so far reported from Indian waters. Of these, the first three species were recorded by Norman (1928) in his revision of flatfishes of India, and he considered Day's (1889) *Synaptura zebra* (Bloch) as the synonym of *Z. guagga*. Chen & Weng (1965), in their review of flatfishes of Taiwan, China, included *Synaptura zebra* under *Zebrias zebra* (Bloch) which they distinguished from *Z. guagga* by the absence of tentacles on eyes.

While Day (1889) in his account of *S. zebra* mentioned that barbels on eyes are present in some specimens, Norman (1928) pointed out that his specimens of *Z. guagga* from Persian Gulf lacked orbital tentacles and had different form and arrangement of cross bars. This suggests that the description of *S. zebra* of Day and that of *Z. guagga* of Norman, in

each case, pertained to a composite species.

In the course of identification of flatfish from west coast of India, I came across two specimens of sole (*Zebrias*) measuring 125.0 and 137.0 mm in total length, collected off Jaigad coast, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra. Except for the absence of orbital tentacles these specimens agree well with Day's description of *Synaptura zebra*. The scales are strongly ctenoid and each possesses 10 to 12 short spinules on the posterior edge.

As the occurrence of *Z. zebra* in Indian waters is re-established it would seem reasonable to believe that Day's (1889) specimens of *S. zebra* with barbels and Norman's (1928) specimens of *Z. guagga* without barbels represented *Z. guagga* and *Z. zebra* respectively.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, for providing facilities and to Dr. M. Babu Rao for useful discussions.

G. M. YAZDANI

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,  
POONA - 5,  
September 23, 1975.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### REFERENCES

- CHEN, J. T. F. & WENG, H. T. C. (1965): A review of the flatfishes of Taiwan. *Biological Bulletin* 25 & 17, *Ichthyological Series* No. 5:77-81.
- DAY, F. (1889). Fauna of British India, Fishes, 2:450-451.
- NORMAN, J. R. (1928): The flatfishes (Heterosomata) of India, with a list of the specimens in the Indian Museum. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 30(2):182-185.
- RAO, K. V. R. (1967): A new sole *Zebrias cochiniensis* from India. *J. Zool. Soc. India*, 19(1 & 2): 99-100.
- TALWAR, P. K. & CHAKRAPANY, S. (1967): A new flatfish of the genus *Zebrias* Jordan and Snyder (Soleidae) from the Orissa coast, India. *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, Calcutta, 20:119-121.

### 19. REACTION OF TWO SALTICID SPIDERS TO A BRIGHT PATCH OF LIGHT

In the afternoon at about 2 P.M., my son was sitting idly in an arm chair fiddling with a hand mirror. The sunlight coming from the window was reflected from the mirror as a bright circular patch on the ceiling. He suddenly drew my attention to the antics of a spider clinging to the ceiling next to the reflected circle of sunlight. When the light patch was moved a few inches in front, the spider followed the patch. He moved it to the sides and then to the rear. Each time the spider followed the light patch on the ceiling. Taking the mirror from him I manoeuvred the light patch in all possible directions and angles upto a few feet from the spider. The spider turned, faced and followed the patch every time. After watching its antics for a couple of minutes I

collected and preserved the spider for identification.

Next day we noticed another spider on the wall of the bed room and repeated our manoeuvres with the light patch. This spider too repeated the behaviour pattern of the earlier spider of following the light patch. This spider too was collected and preserved.

I sent both the spiders to my friend Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Poona for identification. He has very kindly sent me the following identification:—

#### Family SALTICIDAE

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. <i>Marpissa dhakuriensis</i> Tikader | 1 ♀ |
| 2. <i>Marpissa mandali</i> Tikader      | 1 ♀ |

B. S. LAMBA

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
13, SUBHAS ROAD,  
DEHRA DUN 248001,  
November 6, 1975.